J. H. AMES

TELEPHONE 1704

.....MERCHANT TAILOR

85 BAY STREET Toronto Nov. 25, 1891.

Mr. Wm Brewster,
Cambridge, Mass.
Dear Sir,—

I was much pleased to read your article "An Ornithological Mystery" in the October number of the Auk, as I feel certain I can help you to solve it as I myself had a bird which answers exactly to the descriptions you give "The Yellow Rail" (porzana noveboracensis).

On Sept. 13, 1900, while in Mr. Hope's bird store Queen St., Toronto, he told me he had a live rail for me and when I saw it I was delighted to find it was a yellow rail, it had been taken by a man on the Humber river (particulars unknown). I had a cage made for him 2½ x 1½ ft. with a metal bottom in which I kept sand and about half an inch of water with some aquatic plants which I thought would be suitable for my new friend.

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The little fellow became very tame and I let him out occasionally but he made no attempt at flying. You speak of him as the "Kicker" while the female portion of my house-hold christened him the scold. I kept the cage on the kitchen floor and he would invariably scold the first person who went into the room in the morning and if any of their skirts brushed up against his cage he would be sure to scold them with his familiar scold or call Kik-Kik-Kik-Kik-Kik queah. If we went into the room at night and lighted the gas and surprised him he would use the longer call Kik-Kik-Kik-Kik-Kik-Kik-Kik-Kik-Kik-queah and on two occasions when he was at ease he uttered a note exactly like the Indigo Bunting "Chip". I fed him on boiled egg & prepared mocking bird food and a few meal worms a day.

One evening about the last week in Dec 1900 while I was watching him bath himself, evening being his favorite time

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the poor little fellow's head dropped over the side of the bath and after a few convulsive twitches he was dead. I had not time to make him into a skin, so sent him to a taxerdermist who unfortunately did not take the sex.

Yours truly,
J. H. Ames.

Ames — J. H
Nov. 25 - 1896